

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently amended) A drilling fluid comprising an oleaginous fluid comprising about 70% to less than 100% by volume of the drilling fluid, wherein the oleaginous fluid is the continuous phase of the drilling fluid;
a non-oleaginous fluid, wherein the non-oleaginous fluid is the discontinuous phase of the drilling fluid;
a primary emulsifier, wherein the primary emulsifier is in sufficient concentration to stabilize the invert emulsion;
a rheology modifier, wherein the rheology modifier is selected from the group consisting of a dimer poly-carboxylic C₁₂ to C₂₂ fatty acid, trimer poly-carboxylic C₁₂ to C₂₂ fatty acid, tetramer poly-carboxylic C₁₂ to C₂₂ fatty acid, mixtures of these acids, and polyamide wherein the polyamide is the condensation reaction product of a C₁₂-C₂₂ fatty acid and a polyamine selected from the group consisting of diethylenetriamine, triethylenetetramine; tetraethylenetetramine and pentaethylenetetramine wherein, the polycarboxylic fatty acid is a mixture of poly-carboxylic acids added in sufficient concentration so that the trimeric polycarboxylic fatty acid concentration in the drilling fluid is greater than 0.1 pounds per barrel and is up to 5.0 pounds per barrel.
2. Cancelled
3. (Currently amended) The drilling fluid of claim 1 wherein the oleaginous fluid comprises ~~from about 30% to about 100% by volume of the drilling fluid and the oleaginous fluid~~ of a material selected from a group consisting of diesel oil, mineral oil, synthetic oil, esters, ethers, acetals, di-alkylcarbonates, olefins, and combinations thereof.
4. (Currently amended) The drilling fluid of claim 1 wherein the non-oleaginous fluid ~~comprises from about 1% to about 70% by volume of said drilling fluid and the non-oleaginous fluid~~ is selected from the group consisting of fresh water, sea water, a brine

containing organic or inorganic dissolved salts, a liquid containing water-miscible organic compounds, and combinations thereof.

5. (Original) The fluid of claim 1 further comprising a weighting agent or a bridging agent.
6. (Currently amended) The drilling fluid of claim 6 5, wherein the weighting agent or bridging agent is selected from the group consisting of galena, hematite, magnetite, iron oxides, illmenite, barite, siderite, celestite, dolomite, calcite and combinations thereof.
7. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 1, wherein the polyamide has a concentration greater than 0.1 and up to 5.0 pounds per barrel.
8. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 1, wherein the polyamide is the condensation product of one mole of diethylenetriamine and three moles of C₁₂-C₂₂ fatty acid.
9. (Currently amended) A drilling fluid comprising: an oleaginous fluid comprising about 70% to less than 100% by volume of the drilling fluid, wherein the oleaginous fluid is the continuous phase of the drilling fluid;
a non-oleaginous fluid, wherein the non-oleaginous fluid is the discontinuous phase of the drilling fluid;
a primary emulsifier, wherein the primary emulsifier is in sufficient concentration to stabilize the invert emulsion;
an organophilic clay; and
a rheology modifier, wherein the rheology modifier is selected from the group consisting of a dimer poly-carboxylic C₁₂ to C₂₂ fatty acid, trimer poly-carboxylic C₁₂ to C₂₂ fatty acid, tetramer poly-carboxylic C₁₂ to C₂₂ fatty acid, mixtures of these acids, a poly-carboxylic C₁₂-C₂₂ fatty acids and poly-amides formed from the condensation reaction of poly-carboxylic C₁₂-C₂₂ fatty acids and at least one of diethylenetriamine, triethylenetetramine; tetraethylenetetramine and pentaethylenetetramine-ethylenepolyamines wherein, the polycarboxylic fatty acid is a mixture of poly-carboxylic acids added in sufficient concentration so that the trimeric polycarboxylic fatty acid concentration in the drilling fluid is greater than 0.1 pounds per barrel and is up to 5.0 pounds per barrel.

10. Cancelled

11. (Currently amended) The drilling fluid of claim 9 wherein the oleaginous fluid comprises ~~from about 30% to about 100% by volume of the drilling fluid and the oleaginous fluid~~ of a material selected from a group consisting of diesel oil, mineral oil, synthetic oil, esters, ethers, acetals, di-alkylcarbonates, olefins, and combinations thereof.
12. (Currently amended) The drilling fluid of claim 9 wherein the non-oleaginous fluid ~~comprises from about 1% to about 70% by volume of said drilling fluid and the non-oleaginous fluid~~ is selected from the group consisting of fresh water, sea water, a brine containing organic or inorganic dissolved salts, a liquid containing water-miscible organic compounds, and combinations thereof.
13. (Original) The fluid of claim 9 further comprising a weighting agent or a bridging agent.
14. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 13, wherein the weighting agent or bridging agent is selected from the group consisting of galena, hematite, magnetite, iron oxides, illmenite, barite, siderite, celestite, dolomite, calcite and combinations thereof.
15. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 9, wherein the polyamide has a concentration greater than 0.1 and up to 5.0 pounds per barrel.
16. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 9, wherein the polyamide is the condensation product of one mole of diethylenetriamine and three moles of C₁₂-C₂₂ fatty acid.
17. (Currently amended) In a method of rotary drilling a subterranean well using a drilling fluid, the improvement comprising the use of a drilling fluid including:
an oleaginous fluid comprising about 70% to less than 100% by volume of the drilling fluid, wherein the oleaginous fluid is the continuous phase of the drilling fluid;
a non-oleaginous fluid, wherein the non-oleaginous fluid is the discontinuous phase of the drilling fluid;
a primary emulsifier, wherein the primary emulsifier is in sufficient concentration to stabilize the invert emulsion;
an organophillic clay; and

a rheology modifier, wherein the rheology modifier is selected from the group consisting of a dimer poly-carboxylic C₁₂ to C₂₂ fatty acid, trimer poly-carboxylic C₁₂ to C₂₂ fatty acid, tetramer poly-carboxylic C₁₂ to C₂₂ fatty acid, mixtures of these acids, and polyamide wherein the polyamide is the condensation reaction product of a C₁₂-C₂₂ fatty acid and a polyamine selected from the group consisting of diethylenetriamine, triethylenetetramine; and pentaethylenetetramine wherein, the polycarboxylic fatty acid is a mixture of poly-carboxylic acids added in sufficient concentration so that the trimeric polycarboxylic fatty acid concentration in the drilling fluid is greater than 0.1 pounds per barrel and is up to 5.0 pounds per barrel.

18. Cancelled

19. (Currently amended) The drilling fluid of claim 17 wherein the oleaginous fluid comprises ~~from about 30% to about 100% by volume of the drilling fluid and the oleaginous fluid~~ of a material selected from a group consisting of diesel oil, mineral oil, synthetic oil, esters, ethers, acetals, di-alkylcarbonates, olefins, and combinations thereof.

20. (Currently amended) The drilling fluid of claim 17 wherein the non-oleaginous ~~fluid~~ comprises ~~from about 1% to about 70% by volume of said drilling fluid and the non-oleaginous fluid~~ is selected from the group consisting of fresh water, sea water, a brine containing organic or inorganic dissolved salts, a liquid containing water-miscible organic compounds, and combinations thereof.